

The Washington Times

Published Evening and Sunday at
THE MUNSEY BUILDING,
Penn. Ave., between 12th and 14th Sts.
New York Office.....175 Fifth Ave.
Chicago Office.....425 Marquette Building
Boston Office.....Journal Building

Daily, one year.....\$3.00
Sunday, one year.....\$2.50

FRANK A. MUNSEY

The Times is served in the city of Washington and District of Columbia by newsmen, who deliver and collect for the paper on their own account at the rate of 4 cents a week for the Evening and 2 cents a copy for the Sunday edition.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1906.

The Level of Prices.

In the current number of the Review of Reviews, Hon. George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint, presents a most interesting and illuminating discussion of the present tendency of prices of commodities in the markets of this country and the world. Mr. Roberts seeks to determine whether, as is so commonly asserted, prices are rising abnormally.

In the beginning, he points out that comparisons are made with the ruling prices of the era of depression covering the years 1894-98. Prices for that period were without doubt abnormally low. Thus, the average price from 1890 to 1899 being taken as 100, a careful compilation shows that the average in 1896 fell to 90.4, and in 1897 to 89.7, which was low water mark. By 1905 they had risen to 115.9.

But it is further shown by a study of the Sauerbeck London commodity tables that following the decade 1867-77, there was a world-wide fall in prices. Taking the average for 1867-77 as 100, the computation shows that something approximating to a steady decline took place till 1896, when the average of ruling prices was represented by 61. Mr. Roberts is a little disappointing in his failure to give his reasons, which doubtless would be highly interesting, for this universal slump in prices; but he permits the easy inference that the small quantity of money of ultimate redemption had much to do with it.

Mr. Roberts concludes, whatever may have been the causes, that after about twenty-five years of declining, prices have quite definitely turned upward. The reasons for this upward movement, which began about 1901, he makes the theme of inquiry.

It is found that the average of prices in the last five years is the merest trifle higher than the average for the years 1890-93—for practical purposes they are the same. Setting off the year 1905 by itself there is a distinct increase over the period 1890-93. But in a broad way it may be said that the prices of the last five years are approximately the same as those of the corresponding period next preceding the era of depression, 1894-98.

In short, prices are not abnormally high. They seem abnormally high because they are instinctively compared, not with a reasonable level, but with the abnormally low prices of the years of extreme depression that began with 1894.

Among the causes affecting prices, Mr. Roberts gives especial weight to the fact that from 1870 to 1885 the United States was giving away an empire of wonderfully productive land, which was being brought into production. The Argentine was at the same time developing and dumping a great production upon the world's market. Naturally, these things had a depressing effect on prices.

But this era is past. There will not be another such era of expanding production. At the same time that this immense and sudden expansion is checked, the production of gold has immensely increased; and to this increasing supply of basic money and expanding credits is attributed much of the responsibility for putting the world's price list on the up grade once more.

Seasonable Charity.

A work of the most practical charity is covered in the report recently submitted to the annual outgoings committee of the Associated Charities by Secretary Hatch. Briefly, it consisted of car rides into the cool country for 3,600 persons and rests of a week or more at a comfortable camp for 352 children and mothers. The cost was about \$3,500 and this committee, contradicting the practice of most similar bodies, finished its work with a balance in the treasury.

It is well for readers of the newspapers to contemplate the good this work represents. If they have done their duty to their less fortunate neighbors they will have in it the interest of partners. If they have not, they ought to have in it the interest of prospective contributors. A car ride through the suburbs is little enough in their lives, but it may be, and is, a great thing in the lives of our alley dwellers. A week in a camp is hardly more to be noted by them, but it is seven days of paradise to a tired mother and a sick child.

But there is another lesson in this report. It points to work to be done this winter. Then the suffering

will be a matter of cold and starvation, not of sweltering heat and summer sickness. Money will be needed then more even than during the three months of hot weather, and the good it will do will not be less. We shall do well, all of us, if we find in this record of summer charity done to our fellows an incentive to do equally much in the harder months to come.

A Portrait of Royalty.

The reader not attracted to the portrait of the crown princess of Germany, her husband, and their infant son which was published in our issue of Friday, must be hard of heart, indeed. It was redolent of the very spirit of family life. None of the thousand snap-shots and studied poses of the future Emperor and his bride, which were published during the wedding ceremonies of a year ago, was half so charming or half so revelatory of character.

As far as such things can be anticipated, it seems safe to prophesy that this is the view of the new royal family which Americans will bear longest in mind. It presents the princess in a light so human, so empty of royal assumption and devoid of royal glare, so impressively like that which shines upon hundreds of young American matrons, that the affections of our people must go out to her wherever the picture is seen. The crown prince looks the typical proud and manly young father and the babe the image of thousands of American free-born princes of the blood; but it is to the girl mother the picture directs attention most.

It is good for the world to see and have portraits like this—good for the gentle sentiment they arouse, but better for the truth they tell of that humanity which binds all the children of the earth together. We are all of one family, to whatever labors we may be born. The crown prince and his lady wife, should they ascend the Prussian throne, will find their burdens and their joys no greater than those of their humblest subjects who, like them, see life seriously and undertake to live it worthily. And at the end, if the philosophy of the old men of the world is not all awry, these two young heirs of pomp and power will find neither burden nor joy surpassing those represented in this portrait.

Not Yet, Nor Very Soon.

The amiable Mr. Leishman, representing the United States at Constantinople, is still haunting the Yildiz palace in the attempt to get an audience with the Sultan of Turkey and present his new credentials as ambassador. Thus far his efforts have been ludicrously without success.

In the first place, the Sultan is a sick man—really and physically sick now—and his condition is quite often sufficient reason for refusing to receive. When he is feeling fairly well he has other excuses; last week it was the presence of Archduke Stephen of Austria, as a guest; this week a religious observance that had to be attended to. What it will be next week only Mahomet and Abdul Hamid know.

Meantime, to Turkey, Mr. Leishman is still a mere minister, without the right to demand an audience of the monarch. Our Government thought it had done a good stroke by raising Leishman to the rank of ambassador, but if you cannot present the document that says you are one, of what special advantage is it except the blessing of a larger salary?

As far as the enforcing of American ideas as to certain American interests in Turkey is concerned—pshaw, the good-natured Uncle Samuel will wait once more as he has waited these scores of times. He does nothing except bring up the gunboat, and then take it away again. Thus reasons the Sultan, and he is scarcely to be blamed for his view of the matter. The United States is "easy."

What the advocates of temperance and clean habits want to do, and do as soon as possible, is to find some healthy, hale old chap of about 109 years, who has not used tobacco and whisky every day since he was seven.

Weather item: The war cloud in the Balkans has turned up again, having been absent on a vacation since the recent unpleasantness in Manchuria.

Those Chicago wheat bears are working hard to save for bread its honored situation as the staff of life rather than the luxury of the very rich.

McCarren will not lend himself to the arts of the cartoonist, this year, so well as Murphy did last. He's too thin to wear stripes well.

Russia's gold reserve is reported \$200,000,000 short, and the announcement is made as a great sensation, despite that most people are short most or all of that sum.

That lost earthquake maybe was just the suppressed emotions of Eugene Foss as he accepted the lemon handed him in Massachusetts.

The boss who bosses the bosses never looks quite so bad to people

American Pen Women Hold Initial Meeting Opening the Season

League Hears Report of Delegates to International Session in Denver.

MEMBERS' SUMMER DOINGS

Quarterly Report of Historian Tells How the Writers Occupied Their Time.

The League of American Pen Women held its initial meeting for the season on Monday evening at the residence of Mrs. Juliette M. Babbitt, 33 Massachusetts avenue northwest, Mrs. Virginia King Frye, the president, presiding.

The following were admitted to active membership: Mrs. Nellie Sanborn Pyles, of Colorado Springs, Col., and Mrs. J. O. Estabrook, of the Paris Morning News, Paris, Tex. Recent accessions to the league also are Mrs. Ella Celeste Adams, of the Colorado Springs Gazette, and the only woman member of the Pike's Peak Press Club; Mrs. E. Cora De Puy, of Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Zell P. Hart, secretary and treasurer of The Tribune Company, of Warren, Ohio, and vice president of The Tribune Company, of Cheyenne, Wyo.

The league acknowledges a cordial invitation from Mrs. Jennie Hagan Brown, of El Campo, Tex., to attend the Texas press convention in that city, and regretted its inability to accept.

The death of Mrs. Rosa A. Lamons, a well-known woman writer of San Francisco, in September last, was announced to the league by Mrs. Nellie Blessing Eyster, and universal and sincere regret and sympathy were expressed.

Mrs. Mae Ruth Norcross read a letter from Miss Harriet Brock Ewinsford, of Philadelphia, including a beautiful poem by Mrs. Florence Earle Coates.

Report on Denver Convention.

Miss Elizabeth A. Hyde, chairman of the L. A. P. W. delegation to the International League of Press Clubs, recently in session at Denver, Col., presented her report, which was read in her absence by Miss Mabel Louise White. It was a graphic description of the business and social proceedings during that most interesting occasion. Her companion delegates from the L. A. P. W. were Mrs. Marian Longfellow O'Donoghue, Mrs. Mattie Hamilton Plick, Mrs. E. Cora De Puy, Mrs. Vivian A. Henderson, Mrs. Rachel Tougeate Beck, and Miss Jennie Chapin, alternate.

They enjoyed to the utmost the magnificent hospitality of their Rocky mountain hosts—the Denver Press Club, the Writers' Club, the Pike's Peak Press Club, and citizens generally, while railroads and auto clubs, hotels and telegraph offices, in extending depths of freedom of coach and car of cuisine and cable to the mighty wielders of the pen.

Following the business sessions were four memorable excursion days throughout this famous wonderland, ranging from the cloudland altitude of Pike's Peak to the snowing depths of the Royal Gorge, from the gold mines of Cripple Creek to the golden pumpkin fields of Longmont; tenting in the Garden of the Gods, banqueting in palace hotels. They attended the annual pumpkin pie festival at Longmont, where 6,000 pies were devoured, and still not enough; and at Fort Collins were the guests of the Agricultural College.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Marian Longfellow O'Donoghue, the representative clubs contributed a sum sufficient to purchase a \$200 picnic bowl, an offering to the Denver Press Club, in commemoration of its unbounded hospitality to the members of the International League of Press Clubs.

Historian's Quarterly Report.

The quarterly report of the historian, Miss Anna B. Patten, then detailed the "doings" of the league members during the summer months as follows: "Indian summer finds the writers of the League of American Pen Women welcoming the season of renewed energy, though many members seem to have known little cessation in their literary activity."

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman has numerous proofs of her industry in the current periodicals and her name is a household word everywhere.

Grace MacGowan Cooke and her sister, Alice MacGowan, who continue to appear with pleasing regularity in the leading magazines, have planned to spend the coming year abroad.

Miss La Salle Corbell Pickett, vice president, has lately returned from a very successful tour, on which she rendered many of her inimitable negro dialect songs and stories, and gave readings from her "In de Miz" series of Southern folklore tales.

Mrs. Charles Warren Fairbanks, wife of the Vice President of the United States, and an honorary member of the league, was the guest and speaker of honor at the stirring "woman's tribute" given at the Pike centennial at Colorado Springs on September 24, on which occasion Mrs. Rachael Tougeate Beck, wife of Brig. Gen. William H. Beck, and a gifted writer and speaker, contributed a strong address on "Our Army Navy." Mrs. Ella Celeste Adams, of the Gazette, and the only woman member of the Pike's Peak Press Club, was the chairman of the press committee. Octave Thanet (Miss Alice French) and Ellis Meredith were among the distinguished guests.

Mrs. Moore Murdock, whose untiring efforts in behalf of her "dear old soldiers" of the Mexican war are well remembered in Washington, continues to write and talk for their cause throughout the South.

Mrs. Martha H. Gilew, president general of the Southern Industrial Association, is contributing a series of articles to the Atlanta Association, and has ready some interesting sketches for Bob Taylor's Magazine. In addition to her work on the lecture platform, where she reports enthusiastic audiences and a cordial and generous response wherever she presents her cause. She says: "I am heart and soul in the work, and shall not rest until every white child in the

South has the same educational chances as have our forefathers and our negroes."

To Buy Appomattox Farm.

Mrs. Christine Walton Dunlap, another league writer who unites lecturing with her other talents, has spent a busy summer presenting the claims of the Appomattox Surrender Association to the G. A. R. posts throughout the Middle West. The Surrender Association wishes to buy the Appomattox farm where Lee surrendered to Grant and present it to the Government as a peace offering from the North and South combined. Mrs. Dunlap reports much interest and success in the work.

Mrs. Dorla Harvey Develin, regent of the Merion Chapter of the D. A. R., is engaged in the unique and difficult task of locating the graves of the Revolutionary soldiers in the old burying grounds of Merion township, Pa., that their names may be suitably presented, and has just published a pamphlet indicative of the work and her success therein.

Mrs. Sadie Kneller Miller, of Leslie's Weekly, has been busily engaged with clever illustrated specials and her lecturing having recently delivered a bright lecture on "Mountain Climbing in the Yosemite and the Canadian Rockies" before a leading men's club of Baltimore. Part of her summer was spent in travel through the Klondike region as preparation for future work.

Only Hundred Sets Printed.

It is indeed a rare occasion when any such magnificent example of bookbinding is brought to the public attention as the two volumes prepared by Mr. Bishop. The work is privately printed, and but one hundred sets were published. Of these two sets were for copyright purposes, and ninety-eight sets for private distribution. These books have been donated to prominent libraries and art museums in this country and abroad.

Money cannot purchase one of these valuable volumes; the plates and type from which they were printed have been destroyed, and the estimated cost of publication is given by some as \$100,000 and by others as \$150,000.

The books are of large size folio, the size of the page being 17 1/2 x 24 inches, and the volumes are 5 1/2 inches thick. The paper is hand-made American paper, and the bindings massive and of the best possible material and finish.

The examples of the excellence of the skill of the bookbinder. The illustrations are in copperplate, lithograph, wood cut, and water color, and are intended to illustrate not only the specimens in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum, but the most famous examples of jade work found in the museums of the world.

Treatise Scholarly in Treatment. The importance of this work is not confined to the quality of the paper, the perfection of the illustrations, and the magnificence of the bindings. These are all in keeping with the text, which is more than a mere catalogue, or a popular treatise upon art treasures found in jade.

The author, Mr. J. L. M. Curry, is a collector of jade, and has been treated in all of its different phases, and in the preparation of the text prominent scientists of the world have contributed their knowledge, and the result is a collection of facts bearing upon jade as a mineral, considered from an archaeological, mineralogical, and art standpoint. Its history, its geographical distribution, its color and chemical constitution, its compression, resistance, and tensile strength, have all been ably considered by experts in the different lines of scientific research.

Presenting Stage Sketches.

Miss Pearl Sinclair has been presenting some original sketches, and dramas upon the amateur stages of several young ladies' colleges in the South. Mrs. Rosa Myers Mumma's new book, "Fallina," recently published by a Boston firm, is a telling satire on the present divorce system, and is an interesting addition to the season's output. Mrs. Mumma is already working upon another novel dealing with other striking social conditions.

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Miss Belle Ragner Parsons has the most charming series of "Before-Red-Time-Games" appearing also in the Los Angeles Times and several other papers.

Mrs. Eleanor Everett Freer, the gifted song writer of Chicago, has been setting to music the choicest lyrics of our literature, gems from Milton, Tennyson, Longfellow, Byron, the Brownings, Hood, Aldrich and other well-loved poets. Mrs. Freer says: "After having studied and sung the classic songs of France, Germany and Italy, I have found by practical experience no language nor poems more beautiful for song than these lyrics of our own language."

Miss Lucy St. Clair Atkinson continues to keep the world informed of the gay doings of Richmond society through the columns of the Washington Post and other papers.

In the New England Magazine for October appears an interesting story on "The Founding of Salem, Mass.," from the ready pen of Mrs. Lydia J. Young Withee, of the National Press Syndicate.

Success for October contains a touching little poem "Nobody Keers," by Miss Elizabeth A. Hyde, corresponding secretary, who so ably represented the league as chairman of the delegation which attended the recent convention of the International League of Press Clubs at Denver.

The picture is of the Grand Canal of Venice. While the interest centers in the gayly decorated boats, and the view of the campanile and palace, which form the most interesting corner of the square of St. Mark's, the charm of color and of atmosphere produce an effect, for which the pictures of Mr. Powell are noted. Mr. Powell has just returned from a four months' absence from the city, and will soon reopen his studio in the Lenman building. His studio and home in Airmont have been closed for the season.

Israel's Writings of Rembrandt. One of the latest contributions to art literature on Rembrandt comes from the pen of Josef Israel, the veteran painter of Holland, who is now in his eighty-third year. Many Americans have met this distinguished painter at his home and artistically testify to his cordial manner and his unaffected simplicity and sympathy for all painters and art lovers. A translation of the article on Rembrandt has been published in the Collector and Art Critic for October.

Students Eager for Art Instruction. Although the standard of admission for students at the Corcoran Art School has been made higher than usual, the number of students who applied and were registered the first week of the school has been larger than that of former years. The opportunity to obtain a free art education is far better in this city than in that of any other city of this size in the country, and the excellent training of this school is becoming more and more appreciated.

PARIS EXPECTS VISIT OF A KINGLY TRINITY

PARIS, Oct. 6.—Parisians are looking forward to the visits of three monarchs. The royal visitors will be King Frederick VIII. of Denmark; King Haakon, of Norway, and King King of Serbia.

A great constellation of royal guests is expected, now that the Evans mansion has been torn down, the government has no place to offer its illustrious hosts as a dwelling place during their sojourn in the French capital.

ARTISTS IN STATUARY HALL

The art collections of Senator Clark, of Mr. Widener, of Philadelphia; of Mr. Walters, of Baltimore, and of Mr. Morgan, of New York, have become widely known, and of untold influence in arousing art interest in this country. All of these collectors are prominent men of business, and have found relaxation in an exhaustive study of art rather than in an energetic following of the customary round of sports or athletics.

In the Metropolitan Museum of New York is to be found the finest collection of art objects in jade in the world. This collection is the contribution of Heber R. Bishop, a business man of large means who has been successively engaged in sugar planting, in the building of the Third avenue elevated road, and in the development of large mining interests in the neighborhood of Duluth, Minn. While the collection referred to would seem to be a sufficient work for the leisure of any one individual, the vast amount of information upon the subject of jade collected by Mr. Bishop, and published in two massive volumes, is far greater beyond the world than all his collection, for the reason that all interested in this mineral, which has entered so largely into the decorative art of China, will not have the opportunity of examining the choice collection of the Metropolitan Museum, whereas his books are within reach of all.

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To the novice, or to the person who is only casually interested in jade, it will be somewhat surprising to learn that the mineral, so far as the most significant specimens show, has never been a natural product of the Chinese empire, and that while from the Chinese the most valuable specimens have been obtained, there is no proof that it has ever existed in China proper.

Illustrations Showing Manufacture.

Of deep popular interest in this volume are the illustrations in water color by Chinese artists, descriptive of the various steps taken in the manufacture of jade ornaments at the present time. The illustrations are faithful colored drawings, in which not only are seen the artists at work, but the illustrations are further explained by mechanical drawings, showing all of the tools used, and machinery employed in the manufacture of jade ornaments.

A set of the volumes is now in the print room and library of the Smithsonian Institution.

Lucien Powell's Venetian Canvas.

There is now on exhibition at Veerhoff's, in F street, a notable Venetian painting by Lucien W. Powell, whose Italian scenes have become quite popular. Among these fond of pictures containing rich color schemes strongly reminiscent of the color compositions of Turner.

The picture is of the Grand Canal of Venice. While the interest centers in the gayly decorated boats, and the view of the campanile and palace, which form the most interesting corner of the square of St. Mark's, the charm of color and of atmosphere produce an effect, for which the pictures of Mr. Powell are noted. Mr. Powell has just returned from a four months' absence from the city, and will soon reopen his studio in the Lenman building. His studio and home in Airmont have been closed for the season.

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IN STATUARY HALL



STATUE OF DR. J. L. M. CURRY, Presented to the United States Capitol Collection by the State of Alabama.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art was opened to the public on October 1. During the summer the customary housecleaning has received due attention. The exhibits, both permanent and loan, remain the same. The customary opening of the gallery on Sundays will be resumed the first Sunday in November.

Guthertz Portrait of Miss Nelson.

Carl Guthertz, painter of portraits and mural decorations, has closed his summer studio near Rockville and has returned to his home in Church street. Mr. Guthertz is just completing a portrait of Miss Victoria Nelson, a popular belle of Memphis, Tenn., and a woman of recognized beauty throughout the South. The portrait shows Miss Nelson seated in an ornamental chair upon a piazza, where the climbing roses and flowering vines form an almost solid background. Miss Nelson's costume is of old rose-colored material, with hat and gloves to match. The right elbow rests upon the back of the chair, and in the right hand a magnificent specimen of an American Beauty rose is held. The face is pleasing and thoroughly American in its type. Draperies and accessories have been skillfully handled, and the color scheme has no jarring note of contrast.

While the selection of a different background might have given a more forceful picture, it would not have resulted in a more pleasing composition.

Key's Portrait in Pennsylvania Gallery.

The National Portrait Gallery, lately inaugurated by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, has recently acquired a portrait of Francis Scott Key, by Charles W. Peale. In the general collection of the academy a new picture has been added, "The Road to Nice," the work of the late William L. Picknell, who is strongly represented in the collection of the Corcoran Gallery by the notable painting, "The Road to Concarneau."

Baltimore's Art Crusade Useless.

Baltimore has been having some surprises in art matters. In that city a Municipal Art League directs as far as possible all matters relating to the fine arts. Believing that in the schools there existed the best opportunity to commence a reform in art, one building was taken in hand and the interior given a thorough remodeling and decorating so that schemes of color with their relation to other decorations and art objects might be studied daily by the pupils. In this manner the children would learn from their environment the most suitable colors for the walls of the home, while the proper relation to art objects could also be learned from the casts and pictures used to decorate the rooms.

Unfortunately, in the annual vacation housecleaning to which public schools are subjected an order was given for some slight repairs in the building which had been under the care of the Municipal Art League, and with that thoroughness which sometimes develops in artisans when they feel that the public is paying for the work, this model building was completely overhauled and the walls refitted in such colors as the workmen considered the most appropriate for school children. Colors were chosen for durability, and all of the work of the Municipal League was obliterated.

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Maryland Institute Opens.

The Maryland Institute, of Baltimore, with its new director, James Frederick Hopkins, in charge, has opened its school session in its temporary quarters, in Richmond Market Hall, with an unusually heavy enrollment of students.

Much has been done since the advent of Prof. Hopkins to systematize the room arrangement, prepare the temporary class rooms, and properly dispose of the casts and pictures in possession of the institute for the season's work.

The various classroom have been partitioned off and certain places assigned to the "Carrington Hall," "Finkens Hall," "Cushing Hall," thus perpetuating names honored at the institute.

It is confidently expected that this year will record a new high-water mark in the student enrollment. The management is looking forward to a school of over 1,400 pupils.

NAVY MEN MEET IN ATLANTIC CITY

Forming Branch of Navy League of the United States.

DINNER AT THE YACHT CLUB

Secretary Bonaparte and Visiting Officers Entertained by Its Officers.

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 6.—The resort is today converted into the headquarters of the United States navy, for not only is Secretary Charles J. Bonaparte here, but a number of the officers of the navy, including every branch from rear admiral, active and retired, to chief yeomen.

The occasion for their presence is an effort that is being made for the formation of a branch of the Navy League of the United States, and in order to further the movement, Mayor Stoy proclaimed this as "Navy Day" in Atlantic City, and everyone who owned a flag of any description flung it to the breeze.

This afternoon Commodore Kuehnle, of the Atlantic City Yacht Club, entertained Secretary Bonaparte and the visiting naval officers at the yacht club dinner, and this evening a meeting in the music hall of the steel pier for the purpose of forming the branch was held with addresses by Governor Stokes, Secretary Bonaparte, Admiral Coghlan and a host of others.

This has been a sort of military week here, for on Tuesday about 800 members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, of Boston, Mass., came over to the shore on their annual field day to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the founding of the organization. They made their headquarters at the Marlborough-Blenheim, where they held their annual dinner on Wednesday evening, preceded by a reception.